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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Historical Essays and Reviews. By MANDELL CREIGHTON, D.D., D.C.L., LL.D., etc. Sometime Bishop of London. Edited by Louise Creighton. (London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1902. Pp. vii, 356.)

So thorough was Dr. Creighton's scholarship and so judicious his spirit that most of what he wrote is of permanent value, and Mrs. Creighton, herself gifted as a historical writer, has done well to collect these articles, most of which were first printed in monthly magazines. The longest papers are those on Dante and Æneas Sylvius Piccolomini (Pope Pius II.). There are in addition shorter papers on minor figures of the Italian Renaissance, representing no doubt the author's by-studies in connection with his great work on the papacy; as on Vittorino dei Ramboldini, "A School-master of the Renaissance"; on Gismondo Malatesta of Rimini, "A Man of Culture"; on Olympia Fulvia Morata, "A Learned Lady" whose collected works were dedicated to Queen Elizabeth as the most learned sovereign of her time, and who, having lectured in the University of Ferrara on the philosophy of Cicero, when only sixteen, died after a troubled life at twenty-nine. Four of the longer papers relate to English history — those on John Wycliffe, on the Italian Bishops of Worcester, on the Northumbrian Border, and on the Fenland. Two deal with personal experiences of Dr. Creighton — the account of the Harvard commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, at which Creighton was present as representing John Harvard's college, Emmanuel, Cambridge; and that of the coronation of Alexander III., at Moscow, which Dr. Creighton attended in his capacity as a bishop of the Anglican church. The four concluding papers are reviews by Dr. Creighton of Symonds's *Renaissance* and other historical volumes relating to his special period. Though excellent, they are too brief to have much value and were hardly worth reprinting.

Gibbon found that to have been an officer in the English militia aided him as the historian of the military decline of Rome. Creighton, in his administration of his great diocese of London, proved to be an ecclesiastical statesman of the first rank; and his insight as an ecclesiastical historian owed much to this quality. The articles on the famous Renaissance pope Æneas Sylvius shows the balanced judgment of the man of affairs. When the first volumes of Pastor's *History of the Popes* appeared, Cardinal Manning with some complacency said that in view of the new information from the secret archives of the Vatican Creighton would have to revise his work. Pastor's third volume deals wholly with Æneas Sylvius, and the reader can now judge for himself which writer

has seen most clearly into the real meaning of this pope's career. He was of the paradoxical type of character that Creighton delighted in, with an admirable *amor scribendi* which made him desire to commit to paper all that he thought and felt. Even after he was pope he kept up his pursuit of learning. "We must," he said, "give some indulgence to our mind, whose delight lies in midnight studies." The result of his incessant use of the pen is that we know intimately the story of his life. He tells of his devout feelings, which did not, however, check his early profligacies; of his taking priest's orders comparatively late in life; of the shiftings of his diplomacy, for he was one of the greatest masters of that art in Europe; of his studious and earnest old age, when he warned the young against the errors that he himself had fallen into; and of his last supreme, but vain effort to rally Europe for a crusade to drive out the Turk, just become the master of Constantinople. His career presents an almost unequaled opportunity for historical antitheses in the style of Macaulay, or for harsh censure in the style of Æneas's German biographer Voigt. Not so, however, does Creighton depict him, and his sketch shows profound knowledge of human nature. "To me Æneas Sylvius seems consistent throughout. He is a cultivated man, adapting himself gracefully to his surroundings; his opinions, both moral and religious, develop themselves spontaneously, so as to accord with the position his talents are winning for him — a position which is day by day rising higher and higher, and so making greater demands upon his better nature, and freeing him more and more from the lower requirements of self-interest" (p. 84).

The same sobriety of judgment appears in the account of the Italian bishops of Worcester. Much has been said of the scandal of this practice of appointing absentee bishops, and no doubt in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries it was a great evil. But Creighton shows how the foreigners were sometimes appointed because of the services they could render to the king of England. Before the end of the fifteenth century the revenues of Worcester were set apart for absentee Italian bishops, because these bishops acted at the Roman court as the agents of England. It was an advantage to England that such agents should be Italians, for these would know better the ways of the papal court, and the English king kept them to their work so strictly that one of them dared not take a holiday without Henry VIII.'s consent. In the article on Wycliffe Creighton shows how strong national spirit in England was in support of the man who attacked papal interference with English independence in church matters. These were the days of the Statutes of *Præmunire* and of *Provisors*, and even the English bishops were not so intolerant of Wycliffe as might have been expected on purely theological grounds.

Mrs. Creighton has contented herself with reprinting the essays almost without comment. We are not even told the dates of their first appearance. This is a pity, as the date of a publication would sometimes explain references that are not now pertinent. For instance, Dr. Creighton hopes that more of Wycliffe's works may be published. Since the

essay was written, the Wiclif Society has given to the world a handsome shelfful of the great teacher's hitherto unprinted writings.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

Essentials in Ancient History from the Earliest Times to the Death of Charlemagne. By ARTHUR MAYER WOLFSON, Ph.D., in consultation with Albert Bushnell Hart. (New York: American Book Company. 1902. Pp. iii, 528.)

THIS book is intended to furnish the basis for a one year's course in ancient history in the high-school. The author's experience has enabled him to select material and construct a narrative suited to the capacity of high-school pupils. From a pedagogical standpoint the work is successful; but even a brief review of its contents reveals errors in general treatment and in detail which make it far from possible to accord it like praise from a historical and literary standpoint. Comparatively little space can be given to the oriental nations. The attempt, therefore, to put political history and civilization on an equal footing has resulted in satisfactory treatment of neither. All recent investigations in these fields seem to have escaped the writer's attention.

In the history of Greece it is gratifying to find but twenty pages out of one hundred and seventy-five allotted to the Peloponnesian War. This is characteristic of this section of the book, and consequently civilization receives more just treatment than has been usual in text-books. The chapters on the Hellenistic period are reserved till the time when Rome comes in contact with the east — an arrangement which emphasizes the unity of ancient history very forcibly. It is, however, unfortunate to separate the civilization of the fourth century so far from the other events of that time. Hesiod should be mentioned and Lycurgus receives too much consideration (p. 75). Xenophon (p. 309) is not worthy of as much space as Herodotus and Thucydides combined (p. 155). The account of the reforms of Cleisthenes is confused (p. 98). Geographically, at least, Macedonia does not include Chalcidice (p. 194).

The good proportions observed in the pages devoted to Greek history are wholly absent from those devoted to the history of Rome and the west. In general less, and far too little, attention is given to topics relating to civilization. Too much space is given to early Rome. Until our ignorance on that period is more fully defined, old views cannot be wholly neglected in text-books; but it is going too far in the other direction to devote forty pages of "Essentials" to a detailed chronological narrative of events down to the war with Pyrrhus. A short summary of this period, and a judicious compression of the material on the later Republic would permit greater justice to be done to the far more important period of the Empire. One hundred and fifty pages are given to the Republic, and but one hundred to the first eight centuries of the Christian era. If this ratio were reversed, the proportions would be more nearly correct. The extension of Roman dominion over the ancient world is well brought out. For high-schools it is, perhaps, right to give the constitu-